

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 04570 021423Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05
NRC-05 ERDA-05 DODE-00 /069 W
-----044503 022047Z /63

R 021205Z AUG 77
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INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

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USIA FOR IEU

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MNOC, DA
SUBJ: CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB"

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 4498; (B) COPENHAGEN 4407

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PAGE 02 COPENH 04570 021423Z

SUMMARY: THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE NEUTRON
BOMB CONTINUES TO BE A SUBJECT OF POLITICAL AND JOURNALISTIC
DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN'S RESPONSE TO THE LATEST
QUESTION FROM SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST)
CHAIRMAN GERT PETERSEN ON THE "NEUTRON BOMB" APPEARED IN THE

DANISH WEEKEND PRESS. PETERSEN HAD ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO STATE WHETHER IT CONSIDERED THE "BOMB" BENEFICIAL OR DETRIMENTAL TO CURRENT DETENTE EFFORTS. THIS WAS PETERSEN'S SECOND ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OVER THIS ISSUE (REFTELS).

2. "TO MEASURE INHUMANITY IN DEGREES HAS NO MEANING WHEN YOU DEAL WITH SUCH A HORRIBLE WEAPON," ANDERSEN IS QUOTED AS RESPONDING. ANDERSEN SAID, "BY TURNING AGAINST ONE INHUMANE WEAPON, WE, IN FACT, APPROVE OTHER WEAPONS THAT MAY BE EQUALLY INHUMANE. THE GOAL MUST BE TO DO AWAY WITH THEM ALL." ANDERSEN FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE WHAT EFFECT ONE OR THE OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEM COULD HAVE ON DETENTE, BECAUSE "IT CAN ALWAYS BE ARGUED THAT SUCH WEAPONS ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE DEGREE OF MILITARY SECURITY ESSENTIAL TO REALISTIC DISARMAMENT TALKS."

3. ANDERSEN, HOWEVER, SAW A DEVELOPMENT OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB" AS A "VERY REGRETTABLE" INDICATION THAT MILITARY DETENTE HAD NOT PROGRESSED VERY FAR. "ALL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE, THEREFORE, TO STRENGTHEN DETENTE EFFORTS AND TO FOCUS ON REALISTIC DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS COVERING BOTH THE NUCLEAR AND THE CONVENTIONAL AREAS."

4. ALSO OVER THE WEEKEND, THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY FOLKETING GROUP CONDEMNED THE "NEUTRON BOMB" AS "A MILITARY CHALLENGE THAT HAS CUT OFF INTERNATIONAL TALKS ON SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT." THE GROUP ASSERTED THAT ANDERSEN -- BY REFUSING TO DENOUNCE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COPENH 04570 021423Z

U.S. SENATE FOR ITS DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH PRODUCTION OF THE BOMB -- HAS CREATED SERIOUS DOUBTS REGARDING DENMARK'S INTENTIONS ON DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT. "THE PRODUCTION OF THIS WEAPON MUST BE STOPPED," SAID THE COMMUNISTS, "AND K. B. ANDERSEN MUST BE FORCED TO DENOUNCE THE BOMB".

5. K. B. ANDERSEN'S RESPONSE TO THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY PRODUCED THE EDITORIAL REACTION OF TWO COPENHAGEN DAILIES OVER THE WEEKEND. IN A RATHER TORTURED PIECE, THE INDEPENDENT, LEFT-WING INTELLECTUAL "INFORMATION" CALLED ON THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO STOP OBFUSCATION AND COME OUT CLEARLY FOR OR AGAINST "THE BOMB."

6. THE INFLUENTIAL "BERLINGSKE TIDENDE" (INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE) FOUND THE DISCUSSION OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE ISSUE AND FAILED TO SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB" IN EUROPE TO REPLACE CURRENT NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE PAPER WARNED THAT THE DANISH POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS ON DANISH TERRITORY DOES NOT MAKE DENMARK BETTER SUITED THAN OTHERS TO GIVE ADVICE ON THE "NEUTRON BOMB." DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COPENH04570
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770276-1120
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708107/aaaadnku.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3cee9e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COPENHAGEN 4498, 77 COPENHAGEN 4407
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1423243
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB"
TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, DA, (ANDERSON, KNUT BORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3cee9e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009